REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

By the present Preliminary Amendment the specification is amended to correct informalities therein. The changes made to the specification are not believed to raise any issues of new matter.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number 22850

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GJM/SNS:sjh I:\atty\SNS\290783US-pr.doc Gregory J. Maier Attorney of Record Registration No. 25,599

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